

SEPTEMBER 2023

STAFF UPDATE

MAINE EMS



OVERVIEW

This publication is intended to provide members of the Board and interested parties insight into the work of the Maine Bureau of Emergency Medical Services office in the previous month. This publication is not anticipated to be exhaustive, but instead a high-level overview of the work that has taken place.

It should serve as a jumping point for conversations and questions from the Board regarding the ongoing work that is being performed throughout the state.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

J. SAM HURLEY, MPH, EMPS, NRP

Maine EMS is excited to continue work on developing the Maine EMS Stabilization Program. Once reviewed and approved, we will begin drafting rules for the Board to consider regarding the sustainability component of the funding model. We are seeking guidance from the Board at the upcoming September 6, 2023 Board meeting as to their thoughts on the allocation algorithm, specifically which rurality measure to use in the calculations.

I want to take a moment to re-emphasize the importance EMS clinician safety. As many of you have heard through the media and other messaging, there recently was an EMS clinician that was attacked by a member of the public. It is imperative that we remain vigilant and cognizant of our surroundings, no matter if we are on a call or not. Luckily the EMS clinician is recovering well; however, that doesn't mean that those events are not traumatic for all those involved.

Maine EMS is humbled and immensely grateful for the incredible work performed by EMS clinicians and service leaders throughout our state. We understand that the stressors of this profession are weighty on our clinicians, leaders, and their families. While Maine EMS is working to increase resiliency through the Stress Response and Resiliency Workgroup, we continue to see EMS clinicians and other public safety colleagues die by suicide. We want to highlight the importance of self-care and taking advantage of existing resources within the EMS system at the local, regional, state, and national level. The Maine Front Line Warm Line continues to operate, and we ask that service leaders continue to emphasize the importance of maintaining mental health wellness and to chip away at the stigma associated with peer support and mental health resources.

We are continuing our work with SafeTech Solutions to operationalize the Plan for a Sustainable EMS System in the State of Maine: A Vision for 2035. This work will include action items for the next two-year period to help maintain alignment of the work that is ongoing in various venues (Blue Ribbon Commission, Board, Office, etc.). We are excited about the continued partnership and support of the EMS community, our stakeholders, and the people of Maine to make this plan a reality.

Again, thank you all for your continued work and partnership in making the Maine EMS system the best in the world. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to support you and/or your service. You can reach us by emailing maine.ems@maine.gov or calling (207) 626-3860.





SYSTEMS OF CARE

Ashley continues to work with CARES input and outcome collection. There has been a significant documentation follow-up review with all out-of-hospital cardiac arrest cases as to front-load documentation issues, to ensure the automatic data transfer has limited failures after the implementation of NEMSIS 3.5. Ashley is working with Melissa Adams and Pulse Point to get the AED registry rollout vetted and underway. Development of education and blogs for the Maine Stroke Alliance and supporting the Trauma Advisory Committee is ongoing.

SUD PROGRAMMING

Ambassador Program: Our current team of 4 Ambassadors will wrap up their outreach and education programming on August 31. Our team will be collating the data obtained throughout this Ambassador program phase to determine efficacy, impact and next steps, as well as planning for a future longer term Ambassador program next year to continue outreach work with OPTIONS Referral Program and the future MOUD program.

OPTIONS Referral Pilot Program: Our team is in the process of onboarding preparation for the next 2 EMS agency sites to pilot the OPTIONS referral program in Western and Central Maine, with an additional site that our team will be initiating training and onboarding. These additional sites will bring the pilot site count to 4 total, with plans to onboard another 1-2 EMS agencies as pilot sites to collect data and evaluate this pilot program through the next several weeks. Our team will be reviewing data and programming of this pilot phase to prepare for a statewide rollout of the OPTIONS Referral Program.

Naloxone Leave Behind: Our team sent out an Operational Bulletin on August 24 to provide updates about the recent legislative action of Naloxone dispensation transitioning to a standard practice of care as of December 1, 2023. Our team will send out additional Operational Bulletins leading up to the December 1, 2023 timeframe. EMS agencies continue to onboard in the NLB programming, and in the past month 7 EMS agencies onboarded to NLB, which is a significant increase in growth.

MOUD Program: Our RFP for MOUD Medical Direction Support did not receive an adequate amount of proposals so the RFP will be re-published in the very near future. No other significant updates to the MOUD at this time, as the Medical Direction Support will be an integral aspect of our MOUD programming design and implementation.

Data: No significant updates; our team continues to utilize data retrieved from our EMS System to build insight for our programming, identify needs of EMS patients and EMS clinicians, and next steps for programming.



ADULT VR TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

Maine EMS has finalized and bug-tested all ALS and BLS scenarios. Users can now choose from 9 different graded ALS scenarios, 4 different graded BLS scenarios, and 2 student cases. There are also 9 ungraded ALS practice scenarios. If you are interested in reserving headsets for your service, scheduling a train-the-trainer, or VR CEH opportunities, please reach out to MEMS.VR@maine.gov.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH (EMD)

This month, Maine EMS and the Emergency Services Communications Bureau (ESCB) will be rolling out the training and implementation requirements to PSAPs for a 911-988 Transfer Policy that provides a pathway for a warm hand-off of callers in specific mental and behavioral health circumstances with 988 as the most appropriate resource.

MEFIRS

We will soon add a NEMSIS 3.5 Transition resource page to the Maine EMS website. We will use this location to make documents and resources related to the NEMSIS 3.5 transition readily accessible 24/7.

We are hosting weekly MEFIRS Open Forums to assist EMS agency leaders in transitioning to NEMSIS 3.5. The Open Forums will occur every week on Tuesday, until Nov 28, 2023, at 1400. Scan this QR code to add the meeting series to your calendar



We have posted the recordings of our previous open forums on the Maine EMS YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/maineems>

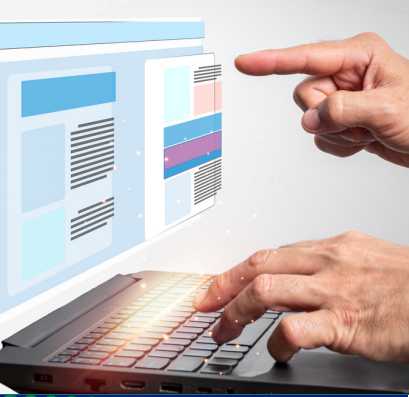
QUALITY ASSURANCE & IMPROVEMENT

The Quality Improvement Committee met in August and continued the review of the pediatric-themed newsletter. The Newsletter is in its final stages, and we plan to release it in September. The committee has chosen our next newsletter to revisit our cardiac arrest newsletter, last published in 2019, and a newsletter regarding patient refusals.



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Quality Improvement Newsletter
EMS Transport Safety
To view, use the QR code/hyperlink





LICENSURE

Licensing is preparing for the 2023 service license renewal season, starting with an email notice to service representatives outlining key features and updates to the application including the exclusive use of online payment. We expect to open the application on October 1.

EDUCATION

The Education and Examinations Committee did not meet in August. The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) officially released their publication of the Student Minimum Competency (SMC) Model Guidelines for AEMT. This guideline has been adopted by the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) and effectively introduces the requirement for Psychomotor Skills Portfolios at the AEMT level. These will begin the phase-in process in July of 2024. As a reminder, at the same time, the NREMT will begin its sunset of their requirement for their traditional psychomotor skills exams for AEMT and Paramedic at that time. To maintain eligibility for initial National Registry certification at the AEMT level, all Maine EMS authorized training centers must eventually adopt the AEMT student minimum competencies into curricula. The Education Committee will be reviewing the SMCs and making recommendations for Board consideration in the near future.

A report regarding the status and outcomes of transition from PSEs to psychomotor skills portfolios was completed and is to be submitted to the Board. The office will be doing site visit to a CTE school for the Training Center Authorization Process on Monday, August 28, 2023. A site visit to another candidate training center is planned for September.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

The Community Paramedicine Committee met on August 10, 2023. At the meeting the committee reviewed and discussed a concept rules document for future CP rules. They will continue this discussion at the upcoming meeting. The goal is to have these rules align the CP Clinician Scope of Practice and Formulary as well as with future licensing and education goals that will support in the standardization of CP throughout the state of Maine. The next meeting will be on September 14, 2023. RFA#202306130, the Healthcare Disparities Funding for Community Paramedicine RFA received all applications on July 26, 2023. This RFA set aside \$1,000,000 to go directly to agencies looking to initiate or expand Community Paramedicine. Agencies could apply for a max of \$100,000. The RFA received 12 applications initially and the evaluation team has completed a review of 10 of those applications. Once the selection package goes live the office will work with all agencies conditionally awarded to initiate contracts.

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COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE CONTINUED

The office has finalized a DUA and BAA with the Office of MaineCare Services to receive data regarding CP patients and has received data. The office is working at connecting that data with MEFIRS CP data to proceed with cost avoidance analysis. The office also continues their work with the Cutler Institute who finished a report from the qualitative interviews they held and is working on developing infographics to inform future work in Community Paramedicine.

EMS FOR CHILDREN

The Maine EMS for Children Advisory Committee will hold its quarterly meeting on October 27, 2023 at 0900. This is a change from the original September date as several of the members will be at the national EMSC conference.

We continue work on the national aims for EMSC and how to incorporate into Maine EMS efforts. Amongst all of the efforts and projects we undertake, from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2027, the Maine EMS for Children program aims to:

- Expand Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Departments through the Maine “Always Ready for Children” program by 10% annually, designating Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) in EDs, and helping to ensure hospital EDs weigh and record children’s weight in kilograms.
- Improve Pediatric Readiness in Maine EMS Agencies through a pediatric readiness recognition program for EMS agencies; increasing Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) in EMS agencies; and increasing the number of EMS agencies that have a process for pediatric skills-check on the use of pediatric equipment.
- Increase pediatric disaster readiness in hospital EDs and EMS agencies by helping to ensure that disaster plans address the needs of children.
- Prioritize and advance family partnership and leadership in efforts to improve pediatric emergency systems of care by including and engaging family representatives who can speak to the emergency care needs of children in their community.

The EMSC Program Manager Marc Minkler and the Family Advisory Network member Brian Richardson will be attending the required national EMSC All Grantee conference from Sept 10-14 in Austin, TX and working with state and national partners in improving our state and local efforts at improving pediatric care. Additionally, Marc is an invited presenter at EMS World Expo in New Orleans, and will be presenting on pediatric BRUE emergencies, as well as meeting with NHTSA on child restraint testing standards and processes from Sept 19-25.

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EMS FOR CHILDREN CONTINUED

We continue to work MCD Global on developing a multipart education series (for MEMSEd) on responding to, assessing, and transporting pediatric patients with behavioral health emergencies and underlying conditions. This program will offer education from clinicians, family members, and various subject matter experts and will include CEH hours upon completion.

The EMSC program continues work with the Maine State Perinatal Committee, the Maine AAP regarding hospital pediatric readiness, and a variety of other pediatric topics.



Maine's EMS for Children Program Coordinator, Marc Minkler, teaching a course on head trauma at NorthStar's Education Conference in Farmington on July 28, 2023.

EXPLORER PROGRAMMING

The Explorer Team is happy to announce three of our initial trial sites. They are:

- Van Buren Ambulance Service, in Aroostook County
- Passamaquoddy Fire & Rescue, in Washington County
- Shapleigh Rescue Squad, in York County

These services have started the process of implementation by identifying their capacity for mentorship and activities. They are also working to build partnerships with local stakeholders, a vital step to ensuring their Explorers can have a good experience. The initial sites have also met all together, beginning the core cohort of experienced agencies able to mentor their neighbors in the future.

While the initial sites build their partnerships, the Explorer Team is developing the online trainings for Explorers. These trainings will be asynchronous videos found on the JMG learning management system. They are intended to ensure that every Explorer has a foundation of knowledge regarding expectations, scene safety, mental health, and more before they step into the field.

RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

The list below is not intended to be exhaustive or necessarily reflect all proposed legislation that may impact emergency medical services or emergency medical dispatch in the State of Maine. More information about specific legislative documents (LD) can be found on the Maine State Legislature's website by searching using the LD number. (<https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/search.asp>)

LD 47: An Act to Amend the Law Governing Licensing Actions of the Emergency Medical Services' Board

(Summary from Bill) This bill amends the law governing licensing actions of the Emergency Medical Services' Board to remove a reference to the revocation of a license.

Hearing Date: Feb. 1, 2023 Work Session Date: Feb. 1, 2023

Disposition: Enacted with Emergency Preamble (June 1, 2023)

LD 172: An Act to Allow Health Care Workers to Return to Work by Reinstating Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

(Summary from Bill) This bill reinstates the religious and philosophical exemptions from immunization requirements for healthcare workers.

Hearing Date: Apr. 24, 2023 Work Session Date: May 17, 2023

Disposition: Dead (June 7, 2023)

LD 244: Resolve, Directing Maine Emergency Medical Services to Convene a Stakeholder Group to Explore Emergency Medical Services Career Pathways and Educational Opportunities in the State

(Summary from Bill) This resolve directs the Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services to convene a stakeholder group to explore career pathways and educational opportunities for emergency medical services providers in the State and to submit a report to the Legislature. Stakeholders include the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System.

Hearing Date: Feb. 15, 2023 Work Session Date: Mar. 8, 2023

Disposition: Passed without Governor's Signature (May 17, 2023)

LD 281: An Act to Require Ski Area Safety Plans and Reporting

(Summary from Bill) This bill requires a ski area operator to annually create a safety plan for the ski area and make that plan accessible to the public, to annually report on the number of skiing accidents resulting in death or in transport to a medical care facility outside the ski area and to maintain a publicly accessible accident database that includes data elements relevant to accident analysis for injury prevention planning.

Hearing Date: Mar. 10, 2023 Work Session Date: Mar. 10, 2023

Disposition: Dead (April 11, 2023)

RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

LD 326: An Act to Improve Recruitment and Retention of First Responders

*(Summary from Bill) ***Concept Bill*** This bill would ensure free training for emergency medical responders and emergency medical technicians and make changes to provisions of law to increase recruitment and retention of first responders in rural areas of the State.*

Hearing Date: Mar. 20, 2023

Work Session Date: May 24, 2023

Disposition: Dead (June 1, 2023)

LD 439: An Act to Allow Death by Suicide to Be Considered a Death While in the Line of Duty

(Summary from Bill) This bill requires the applicable authority, when determining whether a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical services person or corrections officer has died while in the line of duty, to evaluate whether an individual who died by suicide has died while in the line of duty. The bill also gives the Commissioner of Corrections, rather than the Chief of the State Police, the authority to make that determination for Department of Corrections law enforcement officers.

Hearing Date: Mar. 20, 2023

Work Session Date: Mar. 29, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (July 26, 2023)

LD 444: An Act to Designate First Responders and Other Public Safety Professionals as a Special Risk Population for the Purposes of Improving Insurance Coverage for the Effects of Trauma

*(Summary from Bill) ***Concept Bill*** This bill proposes to designate public safety professionals and first responders as a special risk population for the purposes of improving insurance coverage to detect and provide preventive care for the cumulative physical and mental health effects of exposure to consistent negative events and trauma.*

Hearing Date: TBD

Work Session Date: May 24, 2023

Committee Decision: Carried Over

LD 526: An Act to Provide Funding to Emergency Medical Services Organizations

(Summary from Bill) This bill provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$25,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 to the Department of Public Safety targeting emergency medical services organizations at immediate risk of failing and leaving their service areas without access to adequate emergency medical services.

Hearing Date: Mar. 20, 2023

Work Session Date: May 24, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (July 26, 2023)

LD 588: An Act to Promote Public Safety and Retain Essential First Responders by Funding the Maine Length of Service Award Program

(Summary from Bill) This bill provides ongoing funding to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission of \$2,500,000 beginning in fiscal year 2023-24 to provide length of service awards to eligible volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.

Hearing Date: Mar. 20, 2023

Work Session Date: Mar. 29, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (July 26, 2023)

RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

LD 601: An Act to Reduce the Shortage of Municipal Emergency Medical Services Personnel by Removing Certain Vaccination Requirements

(Summary from Bill) This bill allows emergency medical services persons to provide treatment within the scope of their licenses without having been vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus or the influenza virus.

Hearing Date: Apr. 24, 2023

Work Session Date: May 17, 2023

Disposition: Dead (July 26, 2023)

LD 648: An Act to Address Staffing Shortages in Critical Public Safety Jobs Through Economic Incentives

(Summary from Bill) This bill establishes the Fund to Provide Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness in the Finance Authority of Maine to provide funds for student loan forgiveness for local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons, dispatchers and public health workers. It appropriates \$5,000,000 to the fund. It also appropriates \$5,000,000 to the Finance Authority of Maine to provide no-interest home mortgages to local and county law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services persons, dispatchers and public health workers while they are serving in those positions.

Hearing Date: Mar. 24, 2023

Work Session Date: Apr. 7, 2023

Disposition: Dead (April 18, 2023)

LD 727: An Act Regarding Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders Injured in the Line of Duty

(Summary from Bill) This bill amends the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 to provide that if an employee employed as a first responder is injured and is also employed at an additional place of employment, the employee's average weekly wages are computed by combining the wages, earnings or salary received by the employee from each place of employment.

Hearing Date: Mar. 16, 2023

Work Session Date: Mar. 16, 2023

Disposition: Dead (April 5, 2023)

LD 783: An Act to Protect Certain Private Emergency Services Personnel from Liability Under the Maine Tort Claims Act

(Summary from Bill) This bill specifies that a person who is a private firefighter, a private emergency medical services employee or an employee of another private service that provides an emergency response is an employee for purposes of the Maine Tort Claims Act only under certain conditions.

Hearing Date: Apr. 6, 2023

Work Session Date: Apr. 20, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (July 26, 2023)

RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

LD 882: An Act to Allow Nonmunicipal Emergency Medical Services Providers to Be Considered State Employees for Purposes of Certain Benefits

(Summary from Bill) This bill allows an ambulance service or non-transporting emergency medical service to participate in the State's Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan as a local district so that its employees who are emergency medical services providers may receive state retirement benefits, death benefits and disability retirement benefits. The bill also allows these employees to be eligible for the state group health plan.

Hearing Date: Mar. 28, 2023

Work Session Date: Mar. 28, 2023

Disposition: Dead (April 11, 2023)

LD 883: An Act to Exempt Emergency Medical Services Community Paramedicine Programs from Home Health Care Provider Licensing Requirements

(Summary from Bill) This bill excepts from the definition of "home health care provider" a licensed emergency medical services provider providing community paramedicine services approved by the Emergency Medical Services' Board and exempts from Department of Health and Human Services home health services licensing requirements a provider providing approved community paramedicine services.

Hearing Date: Mar. 22, 2023

Work Session Date: Apr. 6, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (June 16, 2023)

LD 913: An Act to Support First Responders

(Summary from Bill) ***Concept Bill*** This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to enact measures to support first responders.

Hearing Date: May 9, 2023

Work Session Date: May 15, 2023

Committee Decision: Carried Over

LD 919: An Act to Facilitate Employment in the Field of Emergency Medical Services

(Summary from Bill) ***Concept Bill*** This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill would facilitate employment in the field of emergency medical services.

Hearing Date: May 9, 2023

Work Session Date: May 16, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (June 12, 2023)

LD 981: An Act to Require All Emergency Medical Services Persons to Be Trained to Administer and Dispense Naloxone Hydrochloride

(Summary from Bill) This bill requires an emergency medical services person to be trained to dispense naloxone hydrochloride.

Hearing Date: Mar. 27, 2023

Work Session Date: Mar. 29, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (May 15, 2023)

RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

LD 1060: An Act to Support Municipal Public Safety by Increasing State-Municipal Revenue Sharing to 7 Percent

(Summary from Bill) This bill increases the percentage of state-municipal revenue sharing from 5% to 7% and requires the additional funds to be used by municipalities for the employment, training and provision of emergency fire and medical services and law enforcement.

Hearing Date: Mar. 30, 2023

Work Session Date: May 4, 2023

Disposition: Dead (June 15, 2023)

LD 1119: An Act to Clarify the Criminal Statutes with Regard to Assaults on Emergency Medical Services Persons

(Summary from Bill) Under current law, a person is guilty of a Class C crime if that person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes bodily injury to an emergency medical care provider, as that term is defined in the law, while the provider is providing emergency care. This bill amends the law by specifying that it is a Class C crime if the bodily injury is to:

1. A person licensed pursuant to the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982, regardless of the location where the emergency medical care is provided; or
2. A person employed or contracted by a hospital and the injury occurs in the hospital's designated emergency room.

The bill also amends the law governing elevating the class of a crime to include assaults on emergency medical services providers.

The bill also makes a technical change to the definition of "emergency medical care provider" in the law governing emergency blood-borne pathogen testing. Currently, that term is defined by providing a cross-reference to a term the bill repeals.

Hearing Date: Apr. 24, 2023

Work Session Date: May 10, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (July 27, 2023)

LD 1142: An Act to Eliminate Motor Vehicle Registration Fees for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Emergency Medical Services Providers

(Summary from Bill) This bill exempts a volunteer firefighter and a volunteer emergency medical services provider from paying registration fees for a vehicle that is the primary means of transportation. The bill directs the Secretary of State to define "volunteer firefighter" and "volunteer emergency medical services provider." The bill provides for the Secretary of State to adopt rules related to this exemption. Current law provides an exemption from motor vehicle registration fees for a person applying for a registration certificate and a set of gold star family plates. This bill moves that provision to a new statutory section for exemptions from registration fees.

Hearing Date: Apr. 4, 2023

Work Session Date: Apr. 5, 2023

Disposition: Dead (April 18, 2023)

RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

LD 1159: An Act to Establish a Pilot Project Regarding Harm Reduction Centers

(Summary from Bill) This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to create a 2-year pilot project establishing and operating a harm reduction health center to provide counseling and health service referrals and a place to use previously obtained controlled substances for clients of the center. The harm reduction health center must be approved by the municipality in which it is located, and the bill provides immunity to the State, the municipality or employees and clients of the center from criminal or civil liability. The bill creates an advisory board to provide guidance to the department and requires the department to report to the 132nd Legislature on the effectiveness of the project.

Hearing Date: Apr. 10, 2023

Work Session Date: Apr. 26, 2023

Disposition: Dead (July 26, 2023)

LD 1268: An Act to Provide for a Local Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Qualifying Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons

(Summary from Bill) This bill allows a municipality to provide an exemption from annual excise tax for one vehicle owned, separately or jointly, by a resident of that municipality who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer emergency medical services person, as long as that vehicle is used to perform those volunteer services.

Hearing Date: May 11, 2023

Work Session Date: May 18, 2023

Disposition: Dead (June 25, 2023)

LD 1396: An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Delegating Authority for Services Performed by Emergency Medical Services Personnel or Others as a Medical Assistant

(Summary from Bill) This bill proposes statutory changes based on recommendations included in the report made to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 587. The committee has not taken a position on the substance of this bill. By reporting this bill out the committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of this bill. The committee is reporting the bill out for the sole purpose of having a bill printed that can be referred to the committee for an appropriate public hearing and subsequent processing in the normal course. The committee is taking this action to ensure clarity and transparency in the legislative review of the proposals contained in the bill.

The bill makes the following changes.

1. It clarifies that a licensed emergency medical services person may not simultaneously act as an assistant performing medical services delegated by a physician or physician assistant.

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RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

(Continued from Previous Page)

2. It adds cross-references clarifying the authority of a physician assistant to delegate medical services to a licensed emergency medical services person in a hospital or health care facility.

3. It clarifies the laws regarding the delegating authority of a physician and a physician assistant.

Hearing Date: Apr. 25, 2023 Work Session Date: May 3, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (June 6, 2023)

LD 1409: An Act to Require Reimbursement When a Municipality Hires First Responders Whose Training Costs Were Incurred by Another Municipality

(Summary from Bill) This bill establishes a formula to reimburse municipalities for training costs for training full-time first responders if the first responder is hired by another municipality within 5 years of the first municipality's initial incurrence of training costs.

Hearing Date: Apr. 25, 2023 Work Session Date: May 19, 2023

Committee Decision: Carried Over

LD 1515: An Act to Fund Delivery of Emergency Medical Services

(Summary from Bill) This bill provides General Fund appropriations to the Department of Public Safety to support existing transportation costs of emergency medical services. These appropriations must be reduced to the maximum extent possible through the use of public and private Medicaid match programs.

Hearing Date: May 4, 2023 Work Session Date: May 4, 2023

Committee Decision: Carried Over

LD 1598: An Act to Allow an Exception to Immunization Requirements for Health Care Workers for Vaccines Approved Under Emergency Use Authorization

(Summary from Bill) This bill allows an exemption from immunization requirements for health care workers if the only available vaccine for a disease is one that is approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration under an emergency use authorization and provides that an employer of health care workers may not require a vaccine approved under an emergency use authorization or retaliate against an employee for refusing to obtain a vaccine that is approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration under an emergency use authorization.

Hearing Date: Apr. 24, 2023 Work Session Date: May 17, 2023

Committee Decision: Dead (June 13, 2023)

RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

LD 1602: An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group Convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board on Financial Health of Ambulance Services

(Summary from Bill) This bill proposes statutory changes based on recommendations included in the report made to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services by a stakeholder group convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board on financial health of ambulance services. The committee has not taken a position on the substance of this bill. By reporting this bill out, the committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of this bill. The committee is reporting out the bill for the sole purpose of having a bill printed that can be referred to the committee for an appropriate public hearing and subsequent processing in the normal course. The committee is taking this action to ensure clarity and transparency in the legislative review of the proposals contained in the bill.

The bill makes the following changes.

- 1. It removes the repeal date related to the rate of reimbursement health insurance carriers are required to pay for covered emergency services provided by an ambulance service provider.*
- 2. It removes the limitation that carriers are only required to reimburse for covered emergency services provided by an ambulance services provider.*
- 3. It requires health insurance carriers to reimburse ambulance service providers for nontransporting services at the same reimbursement rates for covered emergency services.*
- 4. It prohibits health insurance carriers from requiring an ambulance services provider to obtain prior authorization before transporting an enrollee to a hospital, between hospitals or from a hospital to a nursing home or other health care facility and requires carriers to reimburse for those services.*
- 5. It requires health insurance carriers to consider the requirements of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services related to medical necessity when establishing the carrier's own policies for medical necessity.*
- 6. It requires carriers to reimburse ambulance services providers for covered services rendered through community paramedicine in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 84, subsection 4.*

The bill also specifies the cost and performance metrics for the program for collecting and reporting cost and performance metrics related to emergency services that must be established by the Emergency Medical Services' Board in rule and proposes to add 2 positions to the Emergency Medical Services' Board to facilitate that program. Finally, the bill proposes to require the Maine Health Data Organization to report information on payments for ambulance services on its publicly accessible website.

Hearing Date: May 2, 2023

Work Session Date: May 18, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (July 27, 2023)

RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

LD 1701: Resolve, to Reestablish and Continue the Work of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State

(Summary from Bill) This resolve reestablishes the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State, which was previously established by the 130th Legislature in 2022. This 17-member commission is charged with examining and making recommendations on the structure, support and delivery of emergency medical services in the State. The commission is directed to submit, no later than December 6, 2023, a report detailing its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

Hearing Date: May 4, 2023

Work Session Date: May 4, 2023

Disposition: Emergency Unsigned (July 19, 2023)

LD 1728: An Act to Ensure Access to Federally Approved Opioid Overdose-reversing Medication

(Summary from Bill) This bill adds other opioid overdose-reversing medications to statutes governing naloxone hydrochloride.

Hearing Date: May 10, 2023

Work Session Date: May 16, 2023

Disposition: Enacted (June 12, 2023)

LD 1742: An Act to Enhance the Use of Critical Incident Stress Management Teams and to Require Peer Team Support

(Summary from Bill) This bill directs the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to provide critical incident stress management team services and peer team support services to all firefighters and employees or members of a public safety agency, fire department or organization involved in emergency care or response in the State by supporting the establishment of critical incident stress management teams; providing critical incident stress management team services; establishing a program for critical incident stress management training; providing educational, training and promotional programs and materials, including programs and materials related to trauma; providing access to behavioral health care services after a critical incident; and providing peer team support for providing behavioral health resources for issues not necessarily related to a critical incident. The bill also requires the director to designate a full-time employee of the Maine Emergency Management Agency to oversee implementation of these services. The bill also requires public safety agencies, fire departments and organizations involved in emergency care or response to have at least one person who has received critical incident stress management training and to provide education and access to ongoing behavioral health care services related to any post-traumatic stress resulting from a critical incident.

Hearing Date: May 2, 2023

Work Session Date: May 22, 2023

Committee Decision: Carried Over

RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

LD 1751: An Act to Maximize Federal Funding in Support of Emergency Medical Services

(Summary from Bill) This bill establishes an ambulance service assessment fee on ambulance service providers in order to maximize federal funding for reimbursement to ambulance service providers under the MaineCare program. It also increases the reimbursement rates under the MaineCare program for ambulance services, neonatal transport, no-transport calls and community paramedicine.

Hearing Date: May 1, 2023

Work Session Date: May 11, 2023

Committee Decision: Carried Over

LD 1792: Resolve, to Establish the Rural Health Services Task Force

(Summary from Bill) This resolve establishes the Rural Health Services Task Force to study rural health care delivery in the State.

Hearing Date: May 8, 2023

Work Session Date: May 26, 2023

Committee Decision: Ought to Pass as Amended - Carried Over

LD 1832: An Act to Require Reimbursement of Fees for Treatment Rendered by Public and Private Ambulance Services

(Summary from Bill) This bill requires an ambulance service to be reimbursed for the cost of treating a person, regardless of whether the ambulance service transports the person to a hospital.

Hearing Date: May 15, 2023

Work Session Date: May 18, 2023

Committee Decision: Carried Over

LD 1857: An Act to Create the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund to Benefit Public Safety Workers and Volunteers

(Summary from Bill) This bill establishes the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund to provide public safety employees, including certain volunteer first responders, with access to a health and wellness program to mitigate the negative physical and mental health effects of their employment. The bill funds the Public Safety Health and Wellness Reimbursement Fund using 5% of the sales tax collected on the sale of adult use cannabis and adult use cannabis products.

Hearing Date: May 12, 2023

Work Session Date: May 23, 2023

Committee Decision: Ought to Pass as Amended - Carried Over

LD 1859: An Act to Reimburse Training Costs for Emergency Medical and Public Safety Dispatchers

(Summary from Bill) This bill requires the Emergency Medical Services' Board in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau to establish a reimbursement schedule for the cost of training an emergency medical dispatcher or a public safety dispatcher when the dispatcher is hired by another governmental entity as an emergency medical dispatcher or public safety dispatcher within 5 years of the first governmental entity's incurring expenditures for the training. The bill requires a governmental entity to provide reimbursement for training costs in accordance with the reimbursement schedule.

Hearing Date: May 16, 2023

Work Session Date: May 22, 2023

Disposition: Dead (June 13, 2023)